

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS: SENATOR MC GOVERN'S CONVERSATION
WITH FONMIN

1. DURING JAN. 9 MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR MCGOVERN AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN, FONMIN RESPONDED TO QUERY ON CONCERNS AND CHARGES IN INDIA ABOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE BY SAYING, "THAT IS THE GENERAL WAY WE FEEL." HE SAID IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF TALKING ABOUT INTERFERENCE IN ONE OR ANOTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY, OR IN THIS OR THAT FIELD. INDIANS HAD A FEELING THAT WAS WHAT WAS HAPPENING. OUTSIDE FORCES WERE TRYING TO CREATE INSTABILITY. WHAT HAPPENED IN BANGLADESH WAS "EXCELLENT PROOF" ALTHOUGH THE GOI WAS TREATING THIS AS AN INTERNAL BANGLADESH CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS "WE VIEW THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LEADERS THERE AS THE ASSASSINATION OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT." "I AM SURE THIS WAS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUTSIDE INVOLVEMENT." CHAVAN SAID THAT INDIANS FELT THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY OVER THE LAST TWO-THREE YEARS WAS ALSO NOT MERELY DUE TO THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT. IT WAS SOMETHING AIMED AT A SOCIAL/ POLITICAL PROCESS BY FORCES WHICH WERE IN PART SECTARIAN. FORTUNATELY FOR INDIA, HE SAID, CERTAIN STEPS HAD BEEN TAKEN TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ON FOREIGN INSPIRATION OF INTERNAL INDIAN FORCES, CHAVAN DODGED AND SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO GET INTO THESE. HE SAID THAT
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SENATE DISCLOSURES SHOWED THAT "SOME PEOPLE FEEL IT THEIR

LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH EFFORTS." IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND SPECIFIC EVIDENCE. INDIA WARNED ITS PEOPLE THAT SUCH DANGERS WERE THERE AND "WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR THEM." THE U.S. HAD INSTITUTIONS WHICH BROUGHT SUCH MATTERS TO PUBLIC ATTENTION. "THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I AM SAYING ANYTHING AGAINST THE US ADMINISTRATION ABOUT TAKING PART IN THINGS. I AM SPEAKING GENERALLY." CHAVAN REMARKED THAT INDIANS APPROVED OF THE EFFORTS IN THE US TO LOOK INTO SUCH MATTERS. "WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT AND LET THE AMERICAN CITIZEN KNOW ABOUT THIS. WE APPRECIATE THIS." SO FAR AS ANY DETAILED EVIDENCE IN INDIA WAS CONCERNED, CHAVAN LAUGHED, "WELL, YOU ARE TO MEET THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY...." IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF FINDING ANY PARTICULAR EVIDENCE, HE SAID, BUT IF IT COULD HAPPEN IN ONE COUNTRY, IT COULD HAPPEN ANYWHERE.(2)

3. ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, CHAVAN SAID THAT INDIA "AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE" DID NOT PROPOSE TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR MILITARY REASONS. AN INDIAN OFFICIAL SITTING NEARBY OBSERVED THAT PAKISTAN WAS TRYING TO SET INDIAN NUCLEAR EFFORTS IN A MILITARY CONTEXT FOR ITS OWN REASONS. CHAVAN CUT HIM OFF, SAYING THERE WAS NO NEED TO GO INTO THAT SINCE THE SENATOR COULD MAKE HIS OWN JUDGMENT ON THE MATTER.

4. ON THE INDIAN OCEAN, CHAVAN SAID HE HAD MADE INDIA'S VIEWS KNOWN TO THE SECRETARY, IN THE UN, AND EVERY OTHER POSSIBLE FORUM. INDIAN FETTER RIVALRY IN THAT AREA WAS UNNECESSARY. INDIA FEARED THAT IF ONE POWER CAME IN, ANOTHER WOULD TOO. THE SOVIETS SAID--AND THE INDIANS AGREED--THAT THERE WAS NO SOVIET BASE IN THE REGION. THE SOVIETS HAD DENIED TO CHAVAN THAT THEY HAD A BASE IN SOMALIA. SOVIETS TOLD CHAVAN BASES COULD NOT BE CONCEALED.

5. NOTE: SPECIFIC COMMENTS BY CHAVAN ON OTHER SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPTEL. MEMCON BEING POUCHED. SAXBE

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